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ABSTRACT

This volume provides analysis of key issues in higher education during the 1980s and considers some of the political and social features of public life that affected higher education during the decade. The issues are presented in seven chapters, the first of which offers an overview of higher education in the 1980s covering political and public life, the academic community, and the unfinished agenda for the 1990s. Chapter 2 looks at political preferences and values in the 1980s and considers legislative background, the Reagan agenda, and implications for higher education. Chapter 3 examines public life and argues that assertion of individualism and preference for interest-group behavior produced an increasingly diminished quality of public life. Chapter 4 looks at educational reform focusing on seven key reports of the decade, the educational establishment, and three major approaches to higher education: the conservative approach, the establishment approach which developed during the 1960s and 1970s, and a third agenda, the radical-education approach. Chapter 5, "Financing Students," looks at student aid and educational purpose, the 1986 Higher Education Reauthorization Act, issues under discussion for financing students, and ways to improve access and aid. Chapter 6 concerns issues of race in higher education, and describes the situation and initiatives for change. Chapter 7 summarizes the tasks before higher education in the 1990s. Included are over 130 references and an index. (JB)

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